

Message Text

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72 (41)

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ERDA-05

OIC-02 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 BIB-01

NEA-09 /092 W

----- 070581

O R 081612Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0026

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION US NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADD ROME -INFO- ADDEE)

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJ: BREZHNEV SPEECH AT VE CEREMONIES

1. SUMMARY. IN AN OTHERWISE ROUTINE SPEECH, BREZHNEV INVITED THE U.S. TO SEIZE ON THE ENDING OF THE WAR IN INDOCHINA TO STRENGTHEN SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS. THE THRUST OF THIS REMARK, AND OF HIS EMPHASIS ON THE INEVITABILITY OF SUCCESS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, WAS TO TREAT THE DRV VICTORY AS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH DETENTE. END SUMMARY.

2. SPEAKING AT THE MAY 8 KREMLIN CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II, THE SOVIET LEADER DEVOTED SEVERAL PARAGRAPHS TO VIETNAM. WITH THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE AUDIENCE, HE HAILED THE VICTORY OF THE "VIETNAMESE PEOPLE" IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST "FOREIGN INTERVENTIONISTS" (AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE U.S.) AND THEIR HENCHMEN. HE SAID THAT "THE ELIMINATION OF THE HOTBED OF WAR IN INDOCHINA" WOULD BENEFIT DETENTE IN GENERAL, INCLUDING, "AS WE HOPE," SOVIET-U.S. DETENTE. EARLIER HE HAD SAID THAT ATTEMPTS TO SUPPRESS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ARE DOOMED TO FAILURE. THUS BREZHNEV SEEMED TO BE TREATING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE VICTORY AS AN ASPECT OF THE SOVIET CONCEPTION OF DETENTE AND TO BE ASKING THE U.S. TO SEE IT THAT WAY, TOO.

3. WHILE STRONG ON DETENTE, BREZHNEV WAS ALSO TOUGHER ON THE WEST THAN HE HAD BEEN IN HIS LAST SPEECH (IN BUDAPEST IN MARCH). HIS CRITICISM WAS MOSTLY HISTORICAL, HOWEVER, PEGGED TO THE COLD WAR ("ATOMIC BLACKMAIL," ETC.). APART FROM VIETNAM HE DID NOT GLOAT ABOUT RECENT PROGRESSIVE SUCCESSES; THIS WAS IN CONTRAST TO KIRILENKO IN PRAGUE MAY 7, WHO CITED PORTUGAL AND GREECE. NOR DID BREZHNEV REFER TO WESTERN ECONOMIC ILLS. THUS, HIS SPEECH DID NOT HAVE THE COMPETITIVE, PUGNACIOUS FLAVOR OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM RESOLUTION OF APRIL 16.

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4. BREZHNEV URGES CONTINUED MOMENTUM FOR DETENTE WITH NO "PAUSES OR BREATHING SPACES," AND HIS IMMEDIATE TRANSITION TO CSCE INDICATES A DIG AT THOSE WHO MIGHT WANT TO DELAY THE CSCE CONCLUSION. IN CONTRAST TO THE BUDAPEST SPEECH, BREZHNEV DID NOT MENTION A CSCE SUMMIT; IN FACT, REFERENCE TO A SUMMIT SEEMS TO BE DIMINISHING IN SOVIET STATEMENTS. HE INDICATED, AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, THAT AFTER CSCE THE SOVIETS WILL

INTENSIFY THEIR EFFORTS AT ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY, THOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION ASIA SPECIFICALLY, SAYING ONLY THAT THE EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE WOULD BE HELPFUL ON OTHER CONTINENTS.

5. AS AT BUDAPEST, BREZHNEV GAVE GREAT EMPHASIS TO ARMS CONTROL AND CALLED FOR REDUCTIONS, NOT JUST LIMITATIONS. HOWEVER, HE DROPPED HIS BUDAPEST REFERENCE TO MBFR AND SALT. HE MADE ONLY A PASSING REFERENCE TO THE MIDDLE EAST, THUS PASSING UP AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE A GENERAL COMMENT ON THE LATEST ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS THE SOVIETS HAVE HAD WITH ARAB LEADERS.

6. THE UK, THE U.S., AND FRANCE (IN THAT ORDER) GOT A NOD FOR THEIR WARTIME COOPERATION, THOUGH NATURALLY IT WAS THE SOVIET UNION WHICH PLAYED THE "DECISIVE ROLE" IN THE ROUT OF FASCISM. THE YUGOSLAV PARTISANS LED THE LIST OF THOSE WHO CARRIED OUT POPULAR UPRISINGS--ANOTHER PUBLIC EFFORT BY MOSCOW TO ATONE FOR EARLIER SLIGHTS OF THE YUGOSLAV WAR EFFORTS.

7. IN GENERAL, BREZHNEV OPTED FOR CEREMONY OVER SUBSTANCE IN HIS SPEECH. HE SPOKE WITH VIGOR AND ANIMATION FOR ONE HOUR, BUT HE HAD HIS USUAL TROUBLES WITH ENUNCIATION. AS A FURTHER PROOF OF HIS STAMINA, SHAKY THOUGH IT MAY BE, HE SAT THROUGH THE FOLLOW-UP ACTS DURING THE 2 1/2 HOUR CEREMONIES IN THE KREMLIN PALACE OF CONGRESSES. STOESEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, WORLD WAR II
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW06411
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750162-0565
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750570/aaaacklv.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREZHNEV SPEECH AT VE CEREMONIES
TAGS: PFOR, UR, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006